

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring the First Amendment rights of veterans
2 and the importance of protecting the earned benefits of our veterans from retaliatory and
3 punitive measures.

4 WHEREAS, the people of Kentucky recognize and celebrate the patriotic service
5 and community contributions of the more than 370,000 Kentucky veterans and their
6 families, totaling over one million residents, who call our great Commonwealth their
7 home; and

8 WHEREAS, the people of the Commonwealth and this nation have a First
9 Amendment right to free speech, and the veterans of the United States Armed Forces
10 have sacrificed for the protection of that exercise; and

11 WHEREAS, in recognition of their vital contributions to our state economy and
12 local communities, we voice full support for the preservation and protection of their
13 earned benefits from any punitive elimination or reduction of their retiree pay, veteran
14 healthcare, or disability compensation for any exercise of their First Amendment right of
15 free speech; and

16 WHEREAS, Kentucky veterans have faithfully served the nation, and we
17 steadfastly honor their service by protecting their earned benefits and right to free speech;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, any punitive risk that unjustly threatens Kentucky veterans' benefits
20 would severely impact our 370,000 veterans and their families who represent 25 percent
21 of our population; and

22 WHEREAS, threats to recall any veteran into active duty for the purpose of
23 conducting a court martial to downgrade or eliminate justly earned benefits sets a
24 dangerous precedent that veterans' earned benefits could be subject to arbitrary and
25 capricious administrative action; and

26 WHEREAS, protected First Amendment speech doesn't require agreement to be
27 protected, and its exercise should never be used against a person to threaten, intimidate,

1 or provoke action. Retaliatory threats against protected speech are a valid concern that
2 warrants action from the Commonwealth to protect its veterans; and

3 WHEREAS, to disenfranchise one veteran can disenfranchise all veterans;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
6 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes and honors the First
8 Amendment rights of veterans and the importance of protecting the earned benefits of our
9 veterans from retaliatory and punitive measures.

10 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives stands with our military veterans in
11 advocating for their right to free speech and the protection of their earned retirement,
12 healthcare, and disability benefits from specious claims.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
14 copy of this Resolution to Representative Pamela Stevenson.